

the auxiliary amalgam extends substantially in two mutually orthogonal directions transverse to said longitudinal axis, and is disposed substantially in line with said at least one of the electrodes in a direction parallel with said longitudinal axis.

15.(added) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp comprising a discharge vessel (10), said discharge vessel (10) enclosing a discharge space (18) containing a filling of mercury and an inert gas in a gastight manner, and said discharge vessel (10) comprising:
tubular end portions (11; 11'), which each have a longitudinal axis (12; 12'),
electrodes (20; 20') arranged in the discharge space (18) for generating and maintaining a discharge in the discharge space (18),

and, in addition to said filling of mercury and inert gas, at least an auxiliary amalgam (27) provided on a carrier (25; 25') in the discharge vessel (10) in the proximity of at least one of the electrodes (20; 20'),

characterized in that

at least a part (25A) of the carrier (25; 25') is arranged in a plane transverse to the longitudinal axis (12; 12'),

the auxiliary amalgam extends substantially in two orthogonal directions transverse to said longitudinal axis, and is disposed substantially in line with said at least one of the electrodes in a direction parallel with said longitudinal axis, and

the carrier is provided on a supporting body formed by an exhaust tube (26) which extends at least partially into the discharge space (18).

16.(amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp comprising a discharge vessel (10), said discharge vessel (10) enclosing a discharge space (18) containing a filling of mercury and an inert gas in a gastight manner, and said discharge vessel (10) comprising:

tubular end portions (11; 11'), which each have a longitudinal axis (12; 12'),
electrodes (20; 20') arranged in the discharge space (18) for generating and maintaining a discharge in the discharge space (18),

and, in addition to said filling of mercury and inert gas, at least an auxiliary amalgam (27) provided on a carrier (25; 25') in the discharge vessel (10) in the proximity of at least one of